

## ABSTRACT

A system is disclosed for determining whether an imaging system is in a proper operating condition. In an embodiment, the system includes an illumination modulator for providing a desired modulated illumination field at an image surface, a detection unit including a slit opening for receiving a portion of the modulated illumination field, an average power sample unit and a variation power sample unit. The average power sample unit is for determining the average power sample value of the modulated illumination field as the modulated illumination field is moved with respect to the slit opening and for determining whether the average power sample value has changed significantly since a previous scan. The variation power sample unit is for determining the variation in power sample values of the modulated illumination field as the modulated illumination field is moved with respect to the slit opening and for determining whether the variation in power sample values has changed significantly since a previous scan.